



Elder Care

Meet the People We Help...

Problem

Jake's 78-year-old mother suffered from bipolar disorder, and after his father injured himself in a fall, he was no longer able to care properly for his wife. Living in Boston, Jake couldn't give his parents the daily assistance they required and began to search for help. He came across the Web site for Jewish Family & Children's Service of Pittsburgh and wanted his mother and father to seek care through our agency. But his parents prided themselves on their independence and were reluctant to seek outside aid.

Solution

An experienced geriatric care coordinator from JF&CS arranged a family consultation with Jake and his parents to discuss the options for their care—both now and in the future. With patience and understanding, she helped his parents understand their need for additional help and then began to put the right supports in place. "People can often be reluctant to seek help, but we help families address these difficult issues in a way that is consistent with everyone's needs and wishes," the care coordinator says.

Outcome

A caregiver arranged through JF&CS now visits Jake's parents twice a week to provide them with the extra help they need in their home with everything from housekeeping to making doctor appointments. Their care coordinator also makes monthly home visits and frequent phone calls to the couple to track their progress and judge whether their current services are adequate. With their approval, she provides Jake with regular updates, giving him more peace of mind about his parents—even from hundreds of miles away.